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11 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NPIC Support

1. On Thanksgiving Day, after learning of the problems encountered by aircraft C304C and after arranging for the re-programming of the satellite then in operation, I requested that NPIC arrange to have a qualified photo interpreter at Eastman Kodak Company at the time the satellite film arrived. This request was transmitted via [redacted] to NPIC, and at that time, I assumed the request had been honored.

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2. On Friday night, 27 November, I was contacted by [redacted] who requested justification for sending a photo interpreter to Eastman Kodak. As nearly as possible, I explained to him on the phone that this was in conjunction with the incident which had occurred on the mission the night of 25 November and that we were most anxious to determine if an SA-2, in fact, was located in the Lan Chou area, since it was highly probable that we would have to again cover the target. [redacted] then stated that he needed the specific requirement and that [redacted] had stated that he wanted this requirement in writing.

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3. [redacted] further stated that KH-4 material would not reveal SA-2 sites in China and that they would be unable, even by enhancing the film at NPIC, to locate such a site and that, in his judgment, a trip to Eastman Kodak was a waste of time and money and that he did not want to send a photo interpreter for this purpose. At that time, I agreed that if, in his professional judgment, an SA-2 site could not be seen on KH-4 material, I saw no reason for the PI to make the trip.

4. Subsequent information proved that the SA-2, in fact, could be seen on KH-4 material and that it would have been highly possible for a trained PI to detect this over the weekend as the film was processed at Eastman Kodak. This information was not available to OSA until Wednesday, 2 December, due to delays in processing and transporting the film to NPIC.

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Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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5. Needless to say, for the first two days of the week, many questions were asked about the SA-2 site which we were unable to answer as a result of the NPIC reaction to our request for support.

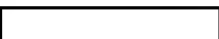


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Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

cc to AD/OSA

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D/FA/OSA/  (11 Dec 64)

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